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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lackie et al. Examiner:

Serial No.: Art Unit:

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Title: SOLID PHASE ASSAY FOR DETECTION OF LIGANDS

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, DC 20231-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants submit the following Preliminary Amendment.

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

On page 13, line 11, please delete "pre-reached" and substitute --pre-reacted-- therefor.

On page 26, line 13, please delete "[6]" and substitute --[AB]-- therefor.

On page 29, line 6, after "Example", please insert --1--.

On page 31, line 5, please delete "re" and substitute --are-- therefor.

On page 36, line 5, please delete "1119961_6.DOC"

In the Abstract, please delete the existing text and replace it with --The present invention provides an improved system for detecting the presence or level of an analyte in a sample. In "competition-like" assays of the present invention, a sample including an analyte is mixed with a second ligand to which the analyte binds, and the mixture is exposed to a solid phase containing a first ligand that can compete with the analyte for binding to the second ligand. According to the present invention, the time of exposure of the mixture to the solid phase is limited so that substantially no dissociation of analyte/second ligand complex occurs. The competition-like assays of the present invention are preferably performed with a solid phase containing a

substantial excess of first ligand. In "sandwich-type" assays of the present invention, a sample including an analyte is contacted with a solid phase including a first ligand that binds the analyte and, simultaneously or subsequently, is contacted with a second ligand that binds the analyte (or the analyte/first ligand complex). The time of contact between the second ligand and the solid phase is limited so that substantially no non-specific binding between the second ligand and the solid phase occurs.--

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 22, 2003

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